#### THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP

## **Board of Directors**

## SPECIAL MEETING

August 2, 2012

## **MINUTES**

# THE STATE OF TEXAS § COUNTIES OF HARRIS & MONTGOMERY §

The Board of Directors of The Woodlands Township met in special session, open to the public, on August 2, 2012 posted to begin at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held in a meeting room at the office of The Woodlands Township, Board Chambers, 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard, The Woodlands, Texas, within the boundaries of The Woodlands Township.

# **Chairman:**

Secretary:

Ed Robb

Bruce Tough <u>President/General Manager:</u>

Don Norrell

Vice Chairman:

Peggy Hausman Staff/Advisors:

Alan Benson Kim Cogburn Karen Dempsey Taunya Jacques

Treasurer: Miles McKinney
Gordy Bunch Mike Page

John Powers

Directors: Monique Sharp

Mike Bass Renee Williford

Nelda Luce Blair Nick Wolda

Jeff Long

# 1. Pledge of Allegiance;

Chairman Tough led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and Texas State flag.

# 2. <u>Call meeting to order;</u>

Chairman Tough called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and declared that notice of this meeting was posted 72 hours in advance at the Courthouse of Montgomery and Harris Counties and inside the boundaries of The Woodlands Township at the office building located at 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard, The Woodlands, Texas.

The roll was then called of the duly elected members of the Board with all members present, excluding Director Long.\*\* As there was a quorum of members present, the Board proceeded to conduct business regarding the following matters.

# 3. Receive, consider and act upon adoption of the meeting agenda;

Motion by: Peggy Hausman moved to adopt the agenda as presented.

Second by: Nelda Luce Blair

## Motion passed unanimously.

| Directors                      | YES    | NO | ABSTAIN |
|--------------------------------|--------|----|---------|
| Tough, Bruce (Chairman)        | х      |    |         |
| Hausman, Peggy (Vice Chairman) | х      |    |         |
| Robb, Ed (Secretary)           | х      |    |         |
| Bunch, Gordy (Treasurer)       | х      |    |         |
| Bass, Mike (Director)          | x      |    |         |
| Blair, Nelda Luce (Director)   | х      |    |         |
| Long, Jeff (Director)          | absent |    |         |

# 4. Recognize public officials;

Chairman Tough recognized the following public officials:

- <u>Steve Leakey-</u>President, Alden Bridge Village Association
- <u>Claude Hunter-</u>former Township Director
- <u>Lloyd Matthews</u>-former Township Director
- Paul Martin-Assistant Vice President, Montgomery County MUD #67
- Amy Lecocq-President, Indian Springs Village Association

# 5. <u>Public comment;</u>

The following individuals provided Public Comment:

<sup>\*\*</sup>Arrived late

- <u>Claude Hunter-</u>commented about governance; would like residents to offer ideas on what they want and then bring these ideas to the next state legislative session
- Steve Leakey-deferred comments until after presentation by Partners for Strategic Action
- Amy Lecocq-deferred comments until after presentation by Partners for Strategic Action
- 7. Receive, consider and act upon Governance Report submitted by Partners for Strategic Action; and

Note: Director Long arrived at 9:03 a.m.; Director Bunch left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Note: Mike Page, legal counsel for The Woodlands Township, participated in the discussion via a conference call.

Chairman Tough called on Don Norrell, President/General Manager of The Woodlands Township, to introduce the presenters from Partners for Strategic Action (PSA). Mr. Norrell introduced Curt Dunham, CEO of PSA, and Audra Koester Thomas, Senior Associate with PSA.

Mr. Dunham began his presentation with a review of the governance process and a review of findings from an Outreach Summary involving feedback from business and community forums as well as online feedback. Survey results from 400 Woodlands residents showed that 70 percent of residents are happy with the current governance structure and don't think incorporation is worth the cost.

Mr. Dunham then presented the Governance Report and provided three potential governance options for The Woodlands Township with a review of each option as follows:

- <u>Identify triggers for action</u> (i.e. change in crime rate; change in the road system or change in traffic congestion)
- Pursue legislative changes
- Hold incorporation vote on November 4, 2014

Following Mr. Dunham's presentation, the Board was provided an opportunity to discuss and ask questions. Chairman Tough then opened the floor for public comments. The following individuals addressed the Board:

- <u>Steve Leakey-</u>commented that incorporation is a difficult undertaking; should have enough money in the 2012 budget to cover costs for Options 1 and 2; changes in the legislature would be hard to do considering turnover of elected officials; commented on a communication plan for residents that could be placed in the community magazine and Community Impact newspaper
- Amy Lecocq-expressed that she did not hear any convincing argument to incorporate; suggested
  that the Board use the time given wisely to figure out what works best for the Township;
  suggested that the Township Board consider adopting a resolution that would include
  information that the Township is not moving toward an incorporation vote in 2014
- <u>Claude Hunter-</u>commented that there are other Townships that are not incorporated; expressed that at some point that the Township should pursue making it where the Township cannot be annexed

• <u>Paul Martin-</u>commented about the MUDs conversion of debt to user fees and cautioned the Board to be careful of this evaluation

The Board then took action on the Governance Report as follows:

Motion by: Bruce Tough moved to direct staff to prepare a resolution and bring it back to the Board at the August 22, 2012 regular Board meeting for consideration and action. The resolution would incorporate the following language:

- The Township will not pursue an incorporation vote on November 4, 2014;
- The Township will pursue further discussion and study of a hybrid of Option 1 and Option 2;
- The Township will pursue possible legislative action in the 2013 legislative session.

Second by: Jeff Long

<u>Amended Motion by:</u> Mike Bass amended the motion to include a date of 2024 for the incorporation election.

Chairman Tough then asked for a second on either the original motion or the amended motion. Director Long seconded the original motion made by Chairman Tough.

The Governance Options Report is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Motion passed unanimously.

| Directors                      | YES    | NO | ABSTAIN |
|--------------------------------|--------|----|---------|
| Tough, Bruce (Chairman)        | х      |    |         |
| Hausman, Peggy (Vice Chairman) | х      |    |         |
| Robb, Ed (Secretary)           | x      |    |         |
| Bunch, Gordy (Treasurer)       | absent |    |         |
| Bass, Mike (Director)          | x      |    |         |
| Blair, Nelda Luce (Director)   | х      |    |         |
| Long, Jeff (Director)          | x      |    |         |
|                                |        |    |         |

Chairman Tough asked staff to bring recommendations for legislative action to the Board's August 22, 2012 meeting. Staff will draft a resolution detailing the Board's decision to steer away from incorporation.

## 7. Adjournment

Motion by: Ed Robb moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

**Second by: Mike Bass** 

Motion passed unanimously.

| YES    | NO                         | ABSTAIN                    |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| х      |                            |                            |
| х      |                            |                            |
| х      |                            |                            |
| absent |                            |                            |
| x      |                            |                            |
| х      |                            |                            |
| x      |                            |                            |
|        | x<br>x<br>x<br>absent<br>x | x<br>x<br>x<br>absent<br>x |



Ed Robb

Secretary, Board of Director